

Serial No. 09/990,852:
Examiner: John Shew

In the Drawings:

Applicant has amended the drawings as requested by the Examiner and herewith provides the Replacement Sheets for Figures 3, 4 and 5.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31 remain in this application.

Figures 3, 4 and 5 were objected to for various reasons. Applicant has submitted herewith replacement sheets for Figures 3, 4 and 5 pursuant to the Examiner's suggestions. Applicant respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.


Claims 1-31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikinis (Pub. No. 2002/0018464) in view of Albert Coussement (Pub. No. 2002/0056000).

The enclosed declaration by Craig A. Hoersten is provided under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to establish reduction to practice prior to the effective date (Kikinis – August 10, 2001 and Coussement – January 18, 2001) of the cited references coupled with due diligence from July 31, 2000 to a subsequent reduction to practice or to the filing of the US provisional (application No. 60/317,746) on September 6, 2001 and to the present utility application on November 21, 2001. Therefore, Applicant submits that the use of Kikinis (Pub. No. 2002/0018464) in view of Albert Coussement (Pub. No. 2002/0056000) for the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 USC 103(a) is not proper, and that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-31 as set forth in the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCATEL



Craig A. Hoersten
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Dated: 1-26-06

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ANNOTATED SHEETS

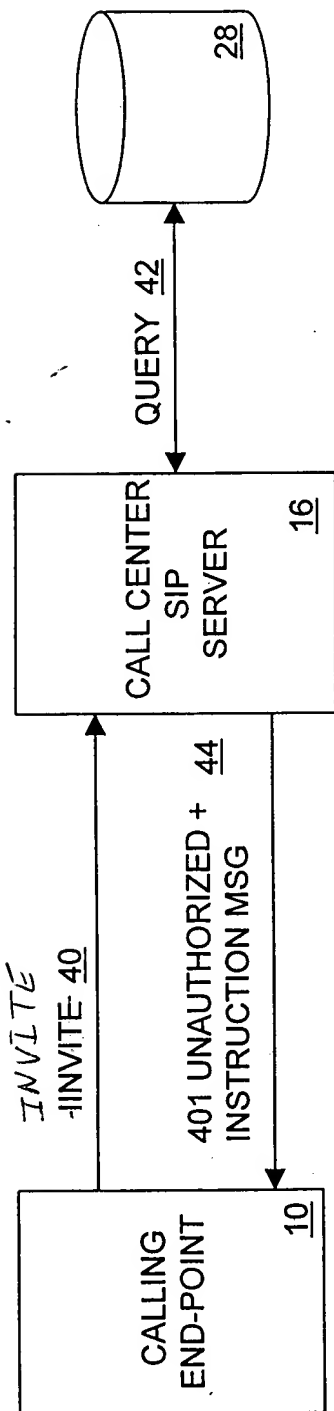


FIG. 3



ANNOTATED SHEETS

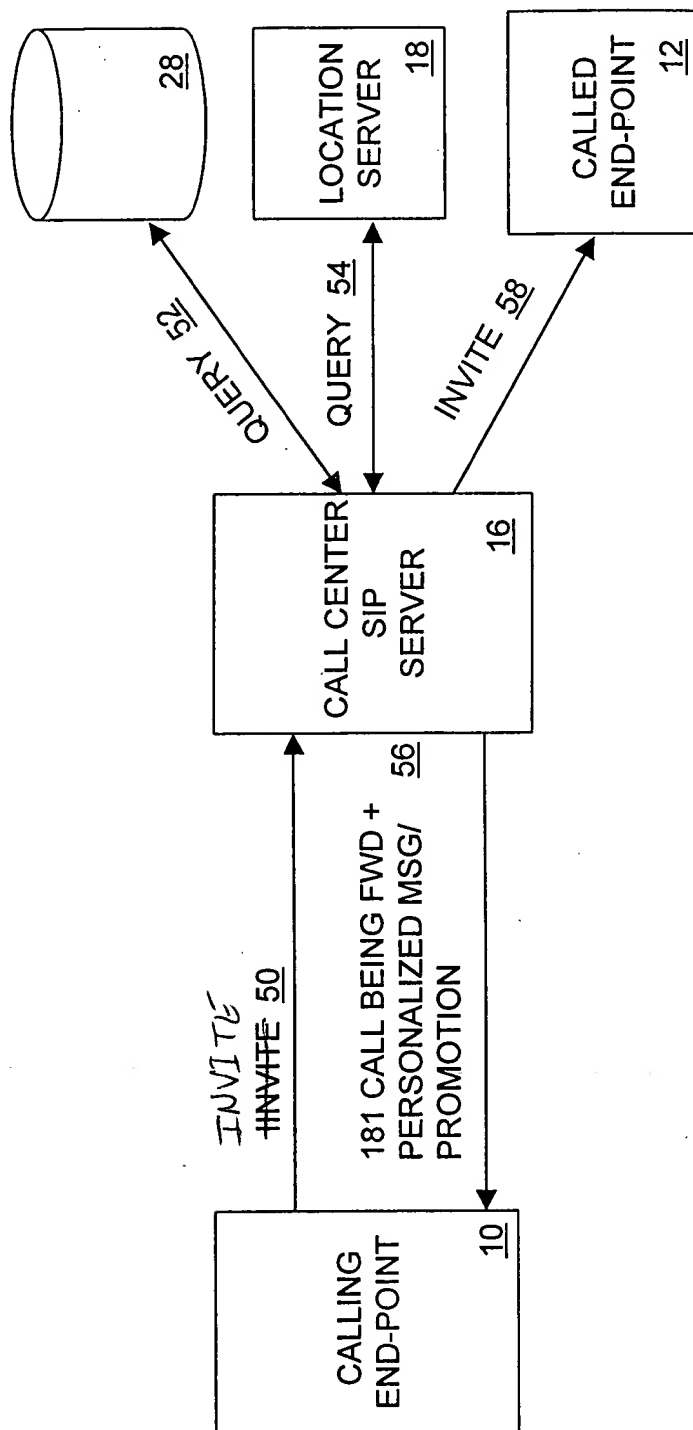


FIG. 4



ANNOTATED SHEETS

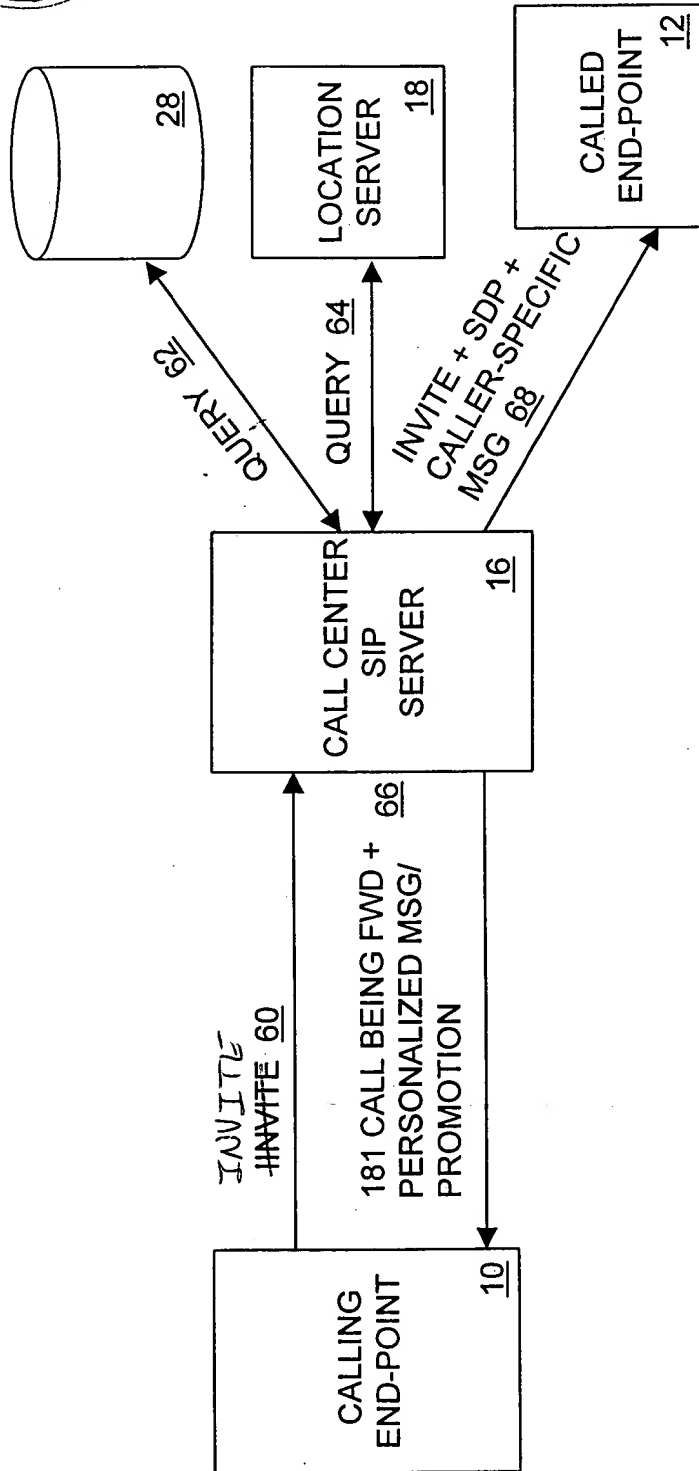


FIG. 5